

CANNOCK URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

together with the Report of the

Chief Public Health Inspector

1956

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URBAN DISTRICT OF CANNOCK

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, 1956

- Chairman: Councillor Mrs. M. L. Rowley, J.P.
Vice-Chairman: Alderman A. Hampton, O.B.E., J.P.
Councillors: R. Amos, A. Bailey, J.P., F. T. Chilton,
S. W. Follows (until 6th March, 1956),
Mrs. D. E. Hawtin, J. Hampton, J. Holston,
I. J. Jacques, J. James, Mrs. E. Jones, J.P., C.C.,
Mrs. I. M. Mincher, B. Nicholls, F. A. Pennington,
E. W. Prime, W. Roberts, J. E. Steele, J. M. Sunley,
F. Turner, E. R. Whitehouse (from 20th May, 1956).

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1956

- Chairman: Councillor Mrs. E. Jones, J.P., C.C.
Vice-Chairman: Councillor I. J. Jacques.
Councillors: Alderman A. Hampton, O.B.E., J.P., J. James,
Mrs. I. M. Mincher, E. W. Prime, F. Turner,
Mrs. M. L. Rowley, J.P., E. R. Whitehouse.

STAFF

(at 31st December, 1956)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Medical Officer of Health | - | - | R. Webster, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H. |
| Chief Public Health Inspector and Shops Inspector | - | - | J. Ball |
| First Additional Public Health Inspector | - | - | R. Heath |
| Additional Public Health Inspector | - | - | H. Forrest |
| Assistant Public Health Inspector and Shops Inspector | - | - | N. Aston |
| Pupil Public Health Inspector | - | - | G. Williams |
| Medical Officer's Clerical Staff (Jointly with Local Health Authority) | - | - | Miss M. Young |
| Public Health Inspector's Clerical Staff | - | - | Mrs. P. Webb, Miss G. Lockley |
| Cleansing Superintendent | - | - | C. F. Poole |
| Cleansing Superintendent's Clerical Staff | - | - | Mrs. D. K. Batts |
| Public Analyst | - | - | A. Houlbrooke, M.Sc., F.R.I.C. |

STAFF OF THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY WORKING IN THE CANNOCK DISTRICT

- Mrs. S. Leach, S.R.N.
Mrs. H. M. Thomson, S.R.N., S.C.M., S.R.F.N., H.V.
Mrs. H. M. Box, S.R.N.
Mrs. M. E. Vaughan, S.R.N.
Miss A. M. M. Girdlestone, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.
Mrs. E. R. Ledington, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE CANNOCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the District and the work of the Health Department, during the year 1956.

A study of the tables and other material in the body of the report shows that 1956 has been a satisfactory year as regards the general well-being of the District.

Equable weather conditions prevailed. The Summer was cool with much cloud and above average rainfall. The Winter months were milder and somewhat wetter than average.

The estimated population at mid-year was 41,950. The excess of births over deaths was 278 which represents the "natural increase". This figure has been falling steadily since the war, in conformity with the shrinking birth rate. The corrected birth rate was a little above last year's "lowest ever" figure, but remained below the National average, which itself is only a meagre 15.7.

There were no maternal deaths for the eighth year in succession.

The infant mortality rate was the lowest ever recorded in this District, and for the first time the rate in Cannock was below the National average. An analysis shows that 13 out of the total 15 deaths occurred in the first month, and 11 out of the total within the first week. The commonest cause of death was prematurity.

The general death rate of 10.4 was much the same as it has been for the past three years. There is no doubt that this new lower level is contributed to by the substantial fall in the tuberculosis death rate, which, though not as striking as last year, is still only one third of what it was ten years ago. After diseases of the heart and vessels (mostly senile degeneration) cancer was the commonest cause of death. The total of cancer deaths for the year was 91. Of these 15 were cancer of the lung, which thus accounts for one case in 6.

In the field of infectious diseases 1956 was a quiet year. There were only six cases of measles as compared with 651 in the preceding year. There were no notifications of Diphtheria, and for the first time since 1951 no notifications of Poliomyelitis. Immunisation against Diphtheria was maintained at a high level (100%) amongst school

children, but protection in pre-school children was considerably lower at only 50%. This latter figure, inadequate as it is, is nevertheless an improvement on previous years, and is above the National figure (latest available) of 36% for this group. The convenience to parents of immunisation in schools is no doubt the factor which accounts for the difference between the two age groups.

Immunisation against Poliomyelitis was begun in 1956, and by the end of the year 212 children, selected by month and year of birth had received the vaccine. A course of Poliomyelitis vaccination consists of two injections spaced three weeks apart, and no other injection should be given within three weeks of either of the Poliomyelitis injections. This has interfered to quite an unexpected extent with the continuation of Diphtheria immunisation, and matters will have to be arranged in future so that increasing availability of Poliomyelitis vaccine does not lead a falling away in protection against Diphtheria.

Protection of children against whooping cough by inoculation was carried out for only 20% of the children. Only 163 children were vaccinated against smallpox, in a district where the annual births are over 700. The population is largely unprotected by immunity against smallpox, and the anxieties and responsibilities arising from the repeated introduction of cases of the disease into the country are greatly increased by this circumstance.

An outbreak of dysentery, originating in, and largely centred in the Ivy House cottages occurred in the Spring. There was some spread to a few children attending the same schools as the children from the cottages. However, by the judicious use of exclusion the outbreak was soon confined (19 cases) and in due course infections in the cases were cleared up. What might have been a substantial outbreak of dysentery was thus averted. The industry of our Public Health Inspectors, and the co-operation of the Laboratory, in such circumstances, when much depends upon confining and limiting the initial outbreak, are to be commended. Considerable illness among young children is prevented, and the effort is well worthwhile.

Four cases of food poisoning (*Salmonella bareilly*) occurred in one family. Infection persisted over a period of three months. This persistence of infection is the feature of food poisoning which makes it so difficult to deal with. Persons with this infection cannot be employed in the handling of food, and should such work be their livelihood considerable hardship may be involved.

Twenty six new cases of Tuberculosis were notified. The sharp fall in cases notified which appeared as between 1954 and 1955 has thus been maintained. Deaths were correspondingly reduced.

Certain old persons thought to be in need of care and attention were brought to the notice of the Department. In each case, however, a solution was obtained without the necessity of having recourse to Section 47 of the National Assistance Act.

During the year the Council built 58 houses and 10 bungalows. 18 houses and 31 bungalows were erected privately for owner occupation.

Periodical supervision of the District's water supply by chemical and bacteriological methods continued with uniformly satisfactory results.

Routine examination of foodstuffs and food premises was carried out by the Public Health Department. The majority of samples proved to be genuine.

Work has proceeded smoothly and efficiently throughout the year, helped in large measure by the good spirit which prevails in the Department. Nothing is too much trouble for the staff, who work hard to keep abreast of the many demands made upon them. The general picture of the year's work is one of confident and industrious handling of the health matters of the District, against a background of understanding and support by the Committee, to whom our thanks are due.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

R. WEBSTER.

Medical Officer of Health.

Section A

Statistics and Social Conditions

| | | |
|---|---------|----------|
| Area of the District (excluding area covered by water) | acres | 8,155 |
| Population at 1931 Census | - - - - | 35,300 |
| Population at 1951 Census | - - - - | 40,927 |
| Registrar General's estimate of population to middle of year | - - - - | 41,950 |
| Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate Books) at end of the year | - - - - | 11,498 |
| Rateable Value, 1st April, 1957 | - - - - | £358,396 |
| Product of Penny Rate | - - - - | £1,511 |

Unemployment figures for the year were as follows:—

| Date | MALES | | FEMALES | | Total |
|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-------|
| | 18 & over | under 18 | 18 & over | under 18 | |
| 12. 3.56 | 80 | 1 | 51 | 4 | 136 |
| 11. 6.56 | 78 | — | 86 | 5 | 169 |
| 10. 9.56 | 103 | 8 | 82 | 5 | 198 |
| 10.12.56 | 95 | 2 | 22 | 3 | 122 |

LIVE BIRTHS

| | Male | Female | Total |
|---------------------|------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate | 347 | 336 | 683 |
| Illegitimate | 11 | 10 | 21 |
| Total | 358 | 346 | 704 |

Live birth rate per 1,000 population - - - - 16.6

Area Comparability Factor —

The Area Comparability Factor provided by the Registrar General is 0.96. This Factor X Crude Live Birth Rate gives a standard Birth Rate for the District of - - - 15.6

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales - - - 15.7

LIVE BIRTHS

| Year | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| Legitimate | 893 | 856 | 750 | 712 | 720 | 646 | 689 | 627 | 591 | 683 |
| Illegitimate | 26 | 14 | 26 | 22 | 33 | 22 | 21 | 16 | 23 | 21 |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population | 22.87 | 21.63 | 19.00 | 17.86 | 18.45 | 16.28 | 17.12 | 15.64 | 14.71 | 16.6 |

STILL BIRTHS

| | Male | Female | Total |
|---------------------|------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate | 5 | 10 | 15 |
| Illegitimate | — | — | — |
| Total | 5 | 10 | 15 |

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births - - 20.8

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births (England and
Wales) - - - - - 23.0

STILL BIRTHS

| Year | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|
| Legitimate | 22 | 18 | 17 | 32 | 14 | 27 | 22 | 21 | 19 | 15 |
| Illegitimate | — | — | 4 | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still Births | 23.3 | 19.6 | 26.3 | 44.2 | 19.5 | 38.8 | 31.3 | 31.6 | 30.01 | 20.8 |

DEATHS

† Nett deaths allocated to the District after allowing for inward and outward transfers:—

| | | |
|------|--------|-------|
| Male | Female | Total |
| 248 | 193 | 441 |

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population - - 10.4

The Area Comparability Factor provided by the Registrar
General is in this case - - - - - 1.23

This Factor X Crude Death Rate gives a standard death rate of 12.79

Death Rate for England and Wales - - - - - 11.7

MATERNAL MORTALITY

| | | Rate per 1,000 live and still births | |
|---|--------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| | Deaths | Cannock | Eng. & Wales |
| Maternal causes (excluding abortion) | — | 0.00 | 0.46 |
| Others due to abortion | — | 0.00 | 0.10 |
| Total | | 0.00 | 0.56 |

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths under one year of age:—

| | Actual Deaths | Cannock Rate | Eng. & Wales Rate |
|--|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| All infants per 1,000 live births | 15 | 21.3 | 23.8 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | 14 | 20.5 | — |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | 1 | 47.6 | — |

| Cause of Death | Under 1 week | 1 — 2 weeks | 3rd week | 4th week | Total 1 — 4 weeks Neo-natal mortality | 4 wks. — 3 mths. | 3 mths. — 6 mths. | 6 mths. — 9 mths. | 9 mths. — 12 mths. | Total Deaths Under 1 year of age |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------|----------|----------|--|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Prematurity ... | 5 | — | — | 1 | 6 | — | — | — | — | 6 |
| Birth Injury ... | 3 | — | — | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| Asphyxia ... | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Respiratory Failure | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Hydrocephalus ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Meningomyelocele | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Congenital Heart Disease ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Intestinal Obstruction | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Gastro enteritis ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Broncho-pneumonia | 1 | 1 | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Totals ... | 11 | 1 | — | 1 | 13 | 1 | — | 1 | — | 15 |

The following table sets out the birth rate, death rate and infant mortality rate for Cannock Urban District, as compared with the rates for England and Wales, as a whole, London Administrative County, 160 County Borough and Great Towns (over 50,000 population) including London and 160 smaller towns :—

| | Birth Rate | | Death Rate | Infant Mortality Rate |
|---|------------|-------|------------|-----------------------|
| | Live | Still | | |
| England and Wales ... | 15.7 | 23.0 | 11.7 | 23.8 |
| London Administrative County ... | 15.9 | 20.2 | 11.7 | 21.4 |
| 160 County Borough and Great Towns (including London) ... | 15.6 | 23.0 | 11.6 | 24.0 |
| 160 Smaller Towns ... | 15.6 | 22.7 | 11.6 | 24.1 |
| Cannock 25 — 50,000 at 1951 Census ... | 15.6 | 20.8 | 12.79 | 21.3 |

The estimated population, birth rate, infant mortality rate (I.M.R.) and Maternal Mortality Rate (M.M.R.) for the past ten years were as follows :—

| Year | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 |
|----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Population ... | 39,730 | 40,590 | 40,890 | 41,080 | 40,810 | 41,030 | 41,230 | 41,090 | 41,730 | 41,950 |
| Birth Rate ... | 23.69 | 22.49 | 19.49 | 18.69 | 18.81 | 16.93 | 17.77 | 16.15 | 15.16 | 17.13 |
| I.M. Rate ... | 50.05 | 39.8 | 36.3 | 36.83 | 35.93 | 43.41 | 43.66 | 38.88 | 30.9 | 21.3 |
| M.M. Rate ... | 0.00 | 2.19 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Death Rate ... | 11.75 | 9.48 | 11.03 | 10.58 | 11.93 | 11.67 | 10.74 | 10.29 | 10.32 | 10.4 |

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE

| Causes of Death | Male | Female | Total | % of Total Deaths in 1956 | % of Total Deaths in 1955 |
|------------------------------------|------|--------|-------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Heart Disease ... | 91 | 78 | 169 | 38.3 | 35.7 |
| Cancer ... | 47 | 41 | 88 | 19.9 | 16.2 |
| Vascular Lesions of Nervous System | 27 | 43 | 70 | 15.8 | 15.0 |
| Bronchitis ... | 31 | 5 | 36 | 8.1 | 7.8 |
| Accidents ... | 9 | 4 | 13 | 2.9 | 5.8 |
| Pneumonia ... | 7 | 2 | 9 | 2.0 | 1.6 |

The above six causes together account for some 85% of the deaths.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1956

| | | | | | Male | Female |
|-------|--|---|---|---|------|--------|
| 1. | Tuberculosis, respiratory | - | - | - | 3 | 2 |
| 2. | Tuberculosis, other | - | - | - | 1 | — |
| 3. | Syphilitic Disease | - | - | - | — | — |
| 4. | Diphtheria | - | - | - | — | — |
| 5. | Whooping Cough | - | - | - | — | — |
| 6. | Meningococcal Infection | - | - | - | — | — |
| 7. | Acute Poliomyelitis | - | - | - | — | — |
| 8. | Measles | - | - | - | — | — |
| 9. | Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases | - | - | - | 1 | — |
| 10. | Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach | - | - | - | 12 | 4 |
| 11. | Malignant Neoplasm, Lung and Bronchus | - | - | - | 12 | 3 |
| 12. | Malignant Neoplasm, Breast | - | - | - | — | 7 |
| 13. | Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus | - | - | - | — | 5 |
| 14. | Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms | - | - | - | 23 | 22 |
| 15. | Leukaemia, Aleukaemia | - | - | - | 1 | 2 |
| 16. | Diabetes | - | - | - | — | 5 |
| 17. | Vascular Lesions of Nervous System | - | - | - | 27 | 43 |
| 18. | Coronary Disease, Angina | - | - | - | 29 | 14 |
| 19. | Hypertension with Heart Disease | - | - | - | 1 | 2 |
| 20. | Other Heart Disease | - | - | - | 39 | 46 |
| 21. | Other Circulatory Disease | - | - | - | 5 | 9 |
| 22. | Influenza | - | - | - | 2 | 4 |
| 23. | Pneumonia | - | - | - | 7 | 2 |
| 24. | Bronchitis | - | - | - | 31 | 5 |
| 25. | Other Diseases of the Respiratory System | - | - | - | 2 | — |
| 26. | Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum | - | - | - | 2 | — |
| 27. | Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea | - | - | - | — | 1 |
| 28. | Nephritis and Nephrosis | - | - | - | 1 | — |
| 29. | Hyperplasia of Prostate | - | - | - | 4 | — |
| 30. | Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion | - | - | - | — | — |
| 31. | Congenital Malformation | - | - | - | 3 | 1 |
| 32. | Other defined and ill-defined diseases | - | - | - | 20 | 12 |
| 33. | Motor Vehicle Accidents | - | - | - | 10 | — |
| 34. | All Other Accidents | - | - | - | 9 | 4 |
| 35. | Suicide | - | - | - | 3 | — |
| 36. | Homicide and Operations of War | - | - | - | — | — |
| Total | | | | | 248 | 193 |

NATURAL INCREASE — EXCESS OF BIRTHS OVER DEATHS

| Year | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Births | 941 | 914 | 797 | 768 | 768 | 695 | 733 | 664 | 633 | 719 |
| Deaths | 467 | 385 | 451 | 435 | 489 | 479 | 443 | 423 | 431 | 441 |
| Natural Increase ... | 474 | 529 | 346 | 333 | 279 | 216 | 290 | 241 | 202 | 278 |
| Estimated Pop. ... | 39,730 | 40,590 | 40,890 | 41,080 | 40,810 | 41,030 | 41,230 | 41,090 | 41,730 | 41,950 |

Section B

General Provision of Health Services within the Cannock Urban District

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Bacteriological and Chemical Laboratories have provided a comprehensive service throughout the year. They have been most helpful with advice and information, as well as in the work undertaken for us.

Results of examinations were as follows:—

Swabs

| Throat | Positive | Negative | Total |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|-------|
| For General Practitioners | - | 7 | 7 |
| For Hospitals | - | — | — |
| Nose | | | |
| For General Practitioners | - | 4 | 4 |
| For Hospitals | - | — | — |

| | | | | |
|------------------------|---|----|-----|-----|
| Sputa for Tuberculosis | - | 31 | 434 | 465 |
|------------------------|---|----|-----|-----|

Other Specimens

| | | | |
|--------|---|---|-----|
| Urine | - | - | 4 |
| Faeces | - | - | 334 |
| Blood | - | - | — |
| Others | - | - | 1 |

In addition many examinations of water, milk, food stuffs, sewage effluents were reported on by these Laboratories during the year.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION & PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

No important changes occurred in these services as compared with previous year.

Section C

Infectious Diseases

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Notifications)

| Year | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Scarlet Fever | 25 | 46 | 75 | 66 | 67 | 20 | 27 |
| Measles | 141 | 576 | 4 | 753 | 114 | 651 | 6 |
| Whooping Cough | 50 | 135 | 10 | 181 | 14 | 92 | 154 |
| Diphtheria | 5 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 1 | — | — |
| Acute Poliomyelitis — Paralytic Non-Paralytic | 8 | — | 2 | 7 | 7 | 2 | — |
| Acute Polio Encephalitis ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Pneumonia | 15 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 22 | 22 | 22 |
| Erysipelas | — | — | — | — | — | 10 | 15 |
| Meningococcal Infection ... | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| Dysentery | — | 35 | — | 2 | 517 | 30 | 19 |
| Enteric Fevers | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Food Poisoning | — | — | — | — | — | 5 | 4 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | — | 2 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 10 | 7 |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | — | 1 | 1 |

ANALYSIS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES BY AGE GROUPS

| Age Groups | Scarlet Fever | Measles | Whooping Cough | Diphtheria | Polio Paralytic | Polio non- Paralytic |
|--------------|------------------|---------|-------------------|------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Under 1 year | — | — | 21 | — | — | — |
| 1 — 2 | 2 | 1 | 32 | — | — | — |
| 3 — 4 | 5 | 1 | 40 | — | — | — |
| 5 — 9 | 16 | 3 | 58 | — | — | — |
| 10 — 14 | 3 | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| 15 — 24 | 1 | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| 25 & over | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |

| Age Groups | Pneumonia | Meningococcal Infection | Dysentery | Enteric Fever | Food Poisoning | Puerperal Pyrexia | Ophthalmia Neonatorum |
|---------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Under 5 years | 1 | - | 7 | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| 5 — 14 | 2 | - | 8 | - | 2 | - | - |
| 15 — 44 | 5 | - | 4 | - | 1 | 7 | - |
| 45 — 64 | 9 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 65 & over | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - |

TUBERCULOSIS

| Age Periods | NEW CASES | | | | Total | DEATHS | | | | Total |
|----------------|-------------|---|-----------------|---|-------|-------------|---|-----------------|---|-------|
| | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | |
| | M | F | M | F | | M | F | M | F | |
| 0— 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1— 5 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| 5—15 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15—25 | 5 | 7 | - | - | 12 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 25—35 | 2 | 1 | - | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 35—45 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 3 | - | 2 | - | - | 2 |
| 45—55 | 2 | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | 2 |
| 55—65 | 4 | - | - | - | 4 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| 65 & up | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 16 | 9 | - | 1 | 26 | 3 | 2 | 1 | - | 6 |

The number of New Cases and the number of Deaths for the past ten years were as follows:—

| | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| NEW CASES | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pulmonary ... | 35 | 34 | 34 | 48 | 36 | 39 | 44 | 37 | 21 | 25 |
| Non-Pulmonary ... | 6 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| Total ... | 41 | 43 | 37 | 49 | 43 | 43 | 48 | 43 | 23 | 26 |
| DEATHS | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pulmonary ... | 16 | 10 | 14 | 17 | 12 | 8 | 11 | 9 | 2 | 5 |
| Non-Pulmonary ... | 5 | 3 | 3 | - | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | - | 1 |
| Total ... | 21 | 13 | 17 | 17 | 15 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 2 | 6 |

Notices of Admission to Institutions were as follows:—

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| The Limes, Himley | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Groundslow Sanatorium | - | - | - | - | - | - | 6 |

DEATHS from Tuberculosis in England and Wales as a whole, 160 County Borough and Great Towns (over 50,000 population) including London and 160 Smaller Towns, as compared with Cannock.

| | Deaths | Rate per million |
|-------------------|--------|------------------|
| England and Wales | 5,373 | 121 |
| Great Towns | 3,139 | 135 |
| Smaller Towns | 650 | 109 |
| Cannock | 6 | 138 |

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER. The number of Tuberculosis cases on the Register on 1st January, 1956, was 249

The Distribution was as follows:---

| | Bridgtown | Cannock | Chadsmoor | Heath Hayes & Wimblebury | Hazel Slade Cannock Wood Rawsley | Hednesford |
|---------------|-----------|---------|-----------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| Pulmonary ... | 19 | 76 | 32 | 22 | 11 | 68 |
| Non-Pulmonary | 1 | 11 | 2 | - | 1 | 6 |
| Total ... | 20 | 87 | 34 | 22 | 12 | 74 |

| Additions to Register | PULMONARY |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| No. of New Notifications | 29 |
| No. of Transfers In | 5 |
| No. Restored to Register | — |
| Total | 34 |

| Deletions from Register | PULMONARY |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| No. Died | 5 |
| No. Recovered | 9 |
| No. of Transfers Out | 3 |
| Total | 17 |

Additions to Register

NON-PULMONARY

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| No. of New Notifications | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| No. of Transfers In | - | - | - | - | — |
| No. Restored to Register | - | - | - | - | — |
| Total | - | - | - | - | 1 |

Deletions from Register

NON-PULMONARY

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| No. Died | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| No. Recovered | - | - | - | - | — |
| No. of Transfers Out | - | - | - | - | — |
| Total | - | - | - | - | 1 |

CANCERS

There were 88 deaths from cancer, 18 more than in the previous year.

The following table shows the trend over the last 10 years:—

| Year | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Deaths ... | 61 | 46 | 66 | 60 | 54 | 77 | 77 | 67 | 70 | 88 |
| Population ... | 39,730 | 40,590 | 40,890 | 41,080 | 40,810 | 41,030 | 41,230 | 41,090 | 41,730 | 41,950 |
| Rate per 1,000 of the Pop. ... | 1.53 | 1.13 | 1.61 | 1.46 | 1.32 | 1.87 | 1.86 | 1.63 | 1.67 | 2.09 |

Annual Report of the

Chief Public Health Inspector

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF CANNOCK URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour in presenting my Annual Report on the sanitary circumstances of the district. Matters relating to Public Cleansing and Conveniences are under the control of the Cleansing Department and a report on these services by the Cleansing Superintendent is included later in this report.

New legislation during the year imposed additional duties and responsibilities, e.g., the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, the Food Hygiene Regulations and parts of the Clean Air Act. In addition, the Sanitary Inspectors (Change of Designation) Act, 1956, was passed and by this Act the designation of Sanitary Inspectors is changed to Public Health Inspectors.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Inspection and Supervision of Food and Food Premises

FOOD HYGIENE

The year commenced with the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the Food Hygiene Regulations coming into force. The legislators no doubt had in mind the nation's concern about the increase in the number of food poisoning outbreaks over recent years. This was a long awaited moment for Public Health Inspectors who had been frustrated by lack of "powers to their elbows". As the year progressed, inspections of food premises were carried out with more vigour knowing we had some definite object in view and by the end of 1956 many improvements had been brought about. These are set out in Table No. 1 on page 20.

In this area are two markets, one owned by the Council, and it was essential that we should first put "our own house in order". Suitable and sufficient sinks and wash hand basins were provided in conveniently accessible positions for the stall holders.

TABLE 1
FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955
IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT

| Regulation. | Improvements | Grocers | Green grocers | Butchers | Cafes | Canteens | Bakeries | Licensed Premises | Fried Fish Shops | General | Stalls | Total |
|-------------|--|---------|---------------|----------|-------|----------|----------|-------------------|------------------|---------|--------|-------|
| 6. | Cleanliness and repair equipment | 3 | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | - | 2 | - | 9 |
| 12. | Drainage | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 2 |
| 14. | Sanitary conveniences | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 3 |
| 16. | Wash-hand basins, number hot & cold water provided | 7 | 2 | 1 | - | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | 2 | 3 | 20 |
| | towels, nailbrushes, etc. | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | 2 | 3 | 18 |
| 17. | First-aid materials provided | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | 18 |
| 18. | Accommodation for clothing | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| 19. | Washing of food—sinks hot & cold water provided | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| | soap, towels, etc. | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 8 |
| 23. | Cleanliness & repair—walls floors doors windows ceilings | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | 2 | 8 |
| | | 11 | 3 | 3 | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | 1 | 8 | - | 31 |
| | | 9 | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | 2 | - | 4 | - | 19 |
| | | 5 | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 9 |
| | | 3 | 2 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | 8 |
| 26. | Stalls. Name & Address | 8 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 23 |
| | Cleanliness and repair | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| | Lighting | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 |
| 27. | Covering and screening refuse receptacles | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| 28. | Hot and cold water soap, towels, etc. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 4 |
| | sinks | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| | | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 |
| TOTALS | | 66 | 19 | 16 | 6 | 7 | 13 | 13 | 2 | 28 | 29 | 199 |

TABLE 2
HYGIENE TESTS, 1956

| Samples taken from | Number taken | Number Satisfactory | Number Unsatisfactory | Percentage Satisfactory | Percentage Unsatisfactory | Colony Count | | Coliform Test | |
|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| | | | | | | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory |
| Nursery Schools | 12 | 12 | — | 100 | — | 12 | — | 12 | — |
| Schools | 16 | 15 | 1 | 93.75 | 6.25 | 15 | 1 | 15 | 1 |
| Licensed Premises | 25 | 24 | 1 | 96 | 4 | 24 | 1 | 24 | 1 |
| Factories | 3 | 3 | — | 100 | — | 3 | — | 3 | — |
| Cafes | 29 | 25 | 4 | 86.20 | 13.80 | 25 | 4 | 27 | 2 |
| Restaurants | 9 | 8 | 1 | 88.89 | 11.11 | 8 | 1 | 8 | 1 |
| Ice Cream Equipment | 18 | 11 | 7 | 61.11 | 38.89 | 11 | 7 | 12 | 6 |
| Hospital Kitchen | 12 | 11 | 1 | 91.67 | 8.33 | 11 | 1 | 12 | — |
| TOTALS | 124 | 109 | 15 | 87.90 | 12.10 | 109 | 15 | 113 | 11 |

It was also essential that all persons engaged in the handling of food should be aware of the Regulations and abstracts of the provisions, and posters for exhibition were delivered to the many food premises, the number and types of businesses being 662.

Number and Type of Food Premises

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Bakehouses | - | - | - | - | - | 13 |
| Butchers Shops | - | - | - | - | - | 39 |
| Cafes and snack bars | - | - | - | - | - | 10 |
| Dairies | - | - | - | - | - | 5 |
| Egg packing stations | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Factory canteens | - | - | - | - | - | 25 |
| Fish retailers and greengrocers | - | - | - | - | - | 10 |
| Fried fish shops | - | - | - | - | - | 24 |
| Ice-cream manufacturers | - | - | - | - | - | 4 |
| Ice-cream retailers | - | - | - | - | - | 159 |
| Meat stalls | - | - | - | - | - | 5 |
| Mobile food vans | - | - | - | - | - | 5 |
| Restaurants | - | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| Retail shops | - | - | - | - | - | 323 |
| School canteens and kitchens | - | - | - | - | - | 15 |
| Slaughterhouses | - | - | - | - | - | 13 |
| Wholesale food premises | - | - | - | - | - | 8 |

Dependent on the staff available, so progress was made and events proved that attention had been rightly focussed on food hygiene and occupiers proved most willing to co-operate. Housewives too, helped by drawing attention to certain unhygienic practices carried out in shops.

As was anticipated, dealing with occupiers called for tact and patience. Problems varied in character, e.g., at one small shop owing to the domestic trouble of the occupier, conditions were such that almost the whole of the stock was found to be unfit for human consumption, and over 4,000 tins, packets or bottles of food were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed. The occupier has now given up the business.

Whenever possible during visits to food premises, swabs of utensils and samples of washing and rinsing water in use were taken. As will be seen in Table 2 on page 21, 124 tests were made and no bacteriological examination 109 or 87.90% were found to be satisfactory.

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD

A list of the samples submitted to the Public Analyst (A. Houlbrooke, Esq., M.Sc., F.R.I.C.) under the Food and Drugs Act and the results of the analyses are set out in a subsequent table. Of the 182 miscellaneous samples taken, 7 (equivalent to 3.8%) were unsatisfactory.

TABLE 3

FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLES, 1956

| SAMPLE | NUMBER EXAMINED | | | NUMBER ADULTERATED OR BELOW STANDARD | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|----------|-------|---|----------|-------|
| | Formal | Informal | Total | Formal | Informal | Total |
| Bread, Sandwiches, Rolls, etc. | - | 7 | 7 | - | 1 | 1 |
| Butter | 2 | 2 | 4 | - | - | - |
| Cake and Pudding Mixture | - | 5 | 5 | - | - | - |
| Cheese | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Coffee | - | 2 | 2 | - | - | - |
| Cooking Fat | - | 2 | 2 | - | - | - |
| Cream | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Drinks, Alcoholic | - | 9 | 9 | - | - | - |
| Drinks, Soft | 4 | 3 | 7 | - | - | - |
| Drugs | - | 2 | 2 | - | - | - |
| Fish | 1 | 2 | 3 | - | 1 | 1 |
| Flavourings and Colourings | - | 6 | 6 | - | - | - |
| Ice Cream | - | 8 | 8 | - | - | - |
| Margarine | 3 | 2 | 5 | - | - | - |
| Meat Products (a) Sausage | - | 7 | 7 | - | 1 | 1 |
| (b) Brawn, polony | 1 | 5 | 6 | - | - | - |
| Meat, Potted | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Milk, Pasteurised | 3 | 22 | 25 | - | - | - |
| Milk, Channel Islands (all grades) | 6 | 11 | 17 | - | 1 | 1 |
| Milk, T.T. Pasteurised | 1 | 6 | 7 | - | - | - |
| Milk, Sterilised | 1 | 15 | 16 | - | - | - |
| Milk, T.T. | 7 | 6 | 13 | - | 1 | 1 |
| Milk, Condensed | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Noodles | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 |
| Sauces | - | 2 | 2 | - | - | - |
| Semolina | - | 2 | 2 | - | 1 | 1 |
| Sweets, Confectionery | - | 11 | 11 | - | - | - |
| Tea | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Vinegar | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | - | - |
| Unclassified | - | 8 | 8 | - | - | - |
| TOTALS | 30 | 152 | 182 | - | 7 | 7 |

Milk samples taken totalled 78 of which 2 (equivalent to 2.5%) proved unsatisfactory. The average composition of all samples of milk was — Fat 3.9%, Solids-non-fat 8.8%.

The old suggested standard that approximately 3 samples of food and drugs per 1,000 of population should be taken each year, of which 1 sample should be milk is, in my opinion, inadequate. The necessity for maintaining an efficient system of supervision and control of the public food supply cannot be overestimated and food and drugs administration is one of the most important sections of the environmental health services. Samples taken by this department in 1956 showed an increase of 13% over 1955.

Table 4

Details of Unsatisfactory Samples

| No. of Sample | Article | Nature of Contravention | Observations |
|---------------|---------------|---|---|
| 240 | Milk | Added water and deficiency in solids-not-fat. | Repeat sample proved genuine. Cautionary warning given. |
| 313 | Milk | Deficient of 15.7% fat. | Ditto |
| 327 | Semolina | Ingredients not stated on label. | Cautionary warning given. Label amended. |
| 329 | Noodles | Ditto | Cautionary warning given. Line of article discontinued. |
| 330 | Crab Paste | Deficient of 12% crab meat. | Cautionary warning given. Repeat sample proved genuine. |
| 339 | Pork Sausage | Deficient of 11.3% meat. | Cautionary warning given. |
| 379 | Roll & Butter | Fat contained not more than 50% butter. | Ditto |

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD — MILK

Cannock is included in a "Specified Area" and all dairymen who retail milk in any part must sell the milk under special designation.

Five premises are registered as dairies (not being dairy farms) and 70 persons as distributors. Regular inspections of these premises were carried out and as will be seen in Table 5, 165 samples of milk for bacteriological examination and 11 for biological tests for tubercle bacilli were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory. It will also be seen that 11 (6.66%) failed to pass the Methylene Blue Test which is essentially a keeping quality test.

Licences to use special designations during the year were as follows:—

Dealers Licences:

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|----|
| Tuberculin Tested | - | - | 14 |
| Pasteurised | - | - | 25 |
| Sterilised | - | - | 61 |

Supplementary Licences:

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|---|
| Tuberculin Tested | - | - | 6 |
| Pasteurised | - | - | 7 |
| Sterilised | - | - | 5 |

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|---|
| Pasteuriser's Licence: | - | - | 1 |
|------------------------|---|---|---|

ICE CREAM

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947 - 1952

Only two manufacturers in this district carried out the heat treatment procedure on their own premises whilst two used the "cold mix" method. In the latter method a "complete cold mix" is used which is reconstituted with wholesome drinking water and to which nothing may be added other than certain specified materials or substances. There are also 159 premises registered for "sale only".

Much of the ice cream sold throughout the area is manufactured elsewhere. A total of 91 samples were taken and by means of the Methylene Blue Reduction Test carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service it was found that 69 fell in Grade 1; 9 in Grade 2; 4 in Grade 3 and 9 in Grade 4. The latter nine samples were taken from two local manufacturers and investigation proved that the cause was due to lack of proper sterilisation. This was immediately rectified.

Details of results of samples taken are to be seen in Table 6.

TABLE 5
THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1949 — 1954
RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS OF MILK, 1956

| Milk Designation | Summary of Results | | | | Statutory Tests | | | | Biological Tests | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|----------|-------------|--|
| | Satisfactory | | Unsatisfactory | Void | Totals | | Methylene Blue | | Phosphatase | | Turbidity | | Tubercle B | | Br. Abortus | |
| | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Totals | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Negative | Positive | |
| T.T. Channel Island | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| T.T. (farm bottled) | 14 | 4 | - | 18 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 6 | - | - | |
| T.T. (Pasteurised) | 22 | 1 | - | 23 | - | 23 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Pasteurised Channel Island | 4 | 1 | - | 5 | - | 4 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | |
| Pasteurised | 51 | 4 | - | 55 | - | 51 | 55 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Sterilised | 51 | - | - | 51 | - | - | - | - | - | 51 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| T.T. | 11 | 1 | - | 12 | - | 10 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | |
| Totals | 154 | 11 | - | 165 | - | 102 | 83 | 11 | - | 51 | - | 10 | - | 10 | - | |

TABLE 6
RESULTS OF ICE CREAM SAMPLES, 1956
(METHYLENE BLUE REDUCTION TESTS)

| Classification | No. of Samples | Percentage of total Samples | Number in each Grade | | | | Percentage in each Grade | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|---|---|---|--------------------------|-------|------|-------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Local Manufacture (Heat Treated) | 30 | 32.97 | 13 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 43.33 | 20 | 6.67 | 30 |
| Local Manufacture (Cold Mix) | 24 | 26.37 | 21 | 2 | 1 | — | 87.5 | 8.33 | 4.17 | — |
| Local Manufacture (Total) | 54 | 59.34 | 34 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 62.96 | 14.81 | 5.56 | 16.67 |
| Other Manufacture | 37 | 40.66 | 34 | 2 | 1 | — | 91.89 | 5.41 | 2.7 | — |
| All Samples (Total) | 91 | 100.00 | 69 | 9 | 4 | 9 | 75.82 | 9.89 | 4.40 | 9.89 |

MISCELLANEOUS FOODS

During frequent visits to an Egg Packing Station in this district, 13 samples of Liquid Egg were obtained but no pathogenic organisms were isolated.

Other samples taken and submitted for bacteriological examination comprised seven of butter and various continental foods (salami). All results proved satisfactory.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND MEAT INSPECTION

When slaughtering of animals for sale for human consumption was resumed in 1954, this Council decided to licence eighteen slaughterhouses subject to certain conditions. In 1955, following applications for renewal, thirteen licences were granted but only twelve were actually brought into use. During 1956, thirteen licences were again renewed and at twelve slaughterhouses slaughtering carried on.

As in the latter years a large percentage of the meat sold in this Urban District is from animals slaughtered in other districts. Many of the local butchers continue to buy their meat "off the hook" in preference to themselves being responsible for the slaughtering and this obviously indicates a desire for a public abattoir. The existing arrangements have continued to work satisfactorily.

A certain amount of slaughtering takes place in the evenings and during week-ends but with the co-operation of the butchers, overtime by the Meat Inspectors has been reduced. The hundred per cent inspection which the department has achieved since slaughtering was resumed in 1954, has been maintained and as will be seen from the figures in Table 7 on page 29, 7,788 carcasses were inspected. There was a decrease in the number of animals slaughtered, the number in 1955 being 8,482. In Tables numbered 8, 9 and 10 on pages 29 and 30, are set out figures showing the affected carcase parts, the incidence of disease found and the diseased meat and offals condemned. Tuberculous lesions were found in approximately one in every ten cows examined which is half of the number found in 1955. The progress towards the eradication of bovine tuberculosis over the years since the first Attested Herd Scheme was introduced in 1935 is now obvious.

Meat inspection at the slaughterhouses was carried out mainly by Mr. R. Heath and Mr. H. Forrest. Although such inspections are not, as yet compulsory, it is desirable and indeed essential that all meat should be inspected.

TABLE 7

| | Cattle except Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep | Pigs |
|---|--------------------------|--------|--------|-------|--------|
| No. of animals slaughtered | 736 | 158 | 55 | 3091 | 3748 |
| No. of animals inspected | 736 | 158 | 55 | 3091 | 3748 |
| ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI : | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 2 |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned | 136 | 54 | Nil | 30 | 552 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis or Cysticerci | 18.48% | 34.18% | Nil | 0.97% | 14.72% |
| TUBERCULOSIS ONLY : | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | 1 | Nil | Nil | Nil | 1 |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned | 43 | 16 | Nil | Nil | 75 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis | 5.9% | 10.12% | Nil | Nil | 2.02% |
| CYSTICERCOSIS : | | | | | |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 2 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration | 1 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Generalised and totally condemned | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |

(Total number of carcasses examined — 7,788)

TABLE 8

DISEASED MEAT AND OFFALS

| | Tons. | Cwts. | Qrs. | Lbs. |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|------|------|
| ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS | | | | |
| Carcase Meat | | 4 | 3 | 26 |
| Offals | 1 | 12 | 0 | 21 |
| TUBERCULOSIS ONLY : | | | | |
| Carcase Meat | 1 | 6 | 0 | 9 |
| Offals | | 15 | 1 | 20 |
| CYSTICERCOSIS ONLY : | | | | |
| Carcase Meat | | — | — | — |
| Offals | | | 2 | 14 |

TABLE 9

AFFECTED CARCASE PARTS

| | Cattle | Cows | Calves | Sheep | Pigs |
|--------------------|--------|------|--------|-------|------|
| Carcases ... | 1 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Part carcasses ... | 10 | 5 | — | 1 | 30 |
| Heads ... | 30 | 7 | — | — | 63 |
| Hearts ... | 7 | 2 | — | — | 97 |
| Kidneys ... | 4 | 3 | — | — | 21 |
| Lungs ... | 42 | 26 | — | 6 | 575 |
| Livers ... | 97 | 39 | — | 22 | 71 |
| Mesenteries ... | 4 | 1 | — | — | 6 |
| Intestines ... | 6 | 2 | — | — | 20 |
| Stomachs ... | 6 | 3 | — | — | 19 |
| Spleens ... | 6 | 1 | — | — | 21 |
| Udders ... | — | 8 | — | — | — |
| Uteri ... | — | 1 | — | — | 6 |

TABLE 10 INCIDENCE OF DISEASE IN MEAT (Weight in Pounds)

| | Other | Cows | Calves | Sheep | Pigs |
|--------------------|-------|------|--------|-------|------|
| Abscesses ... | 248 | 77 | — | 6 | 40 |
| Actinomycosis ... | 130 | 100 | — | — | — |
| Adhesions ... | 30 | 17 | — | 4 | 18 |
| Bacterial Necrosis | 15 | 20 | — | — | — |
| Bruising ... | 72 | 8 | — | — | 3 |
| Cirrhosis ... | 48 | 33 | — | — | 17 |
| Congestion ... | 16 | — | — | — | 869 |
| Contamination ... | — | — | — | — | 18 |
| Cysticercus Bovis | 70 | — | — | — | — |
| Emphysema ... | 15 | — | — | — | — |
| Enteritis ... | — | — | — | — | 10 |
| Fat Necrosis | 6 | 10 | — | — | — |
| Fascioliasis ... | 1041 | 381 | — | 110 | — |
| Hepatitis ... | — | — | — | — | 62 |
| Hydatid ... | 81 | 15 | — | 3 | 30 |
| Hydro nephrosis | — | — | — | — | 6 |
| Mastitis ... | — | 10 | — | — | — |
| Metritis ... | — | 34 | — | — | — |
| Moribund ... | — | — | — | — | 136 |
| Neoplasms ... | 6 | 1 | — | — | 30 |
| Pericarditis ... | 27 | 5 | — | — | 100 |
| Peritonitis ... | — | — | — | — | 20 |
| Pleurisy ... | 20 | 10 | — | 2 | 41 |
| Pneumonia ... | 21 | — | — | — | 122 |
| Swine Erysipelas | — | — | — | — | 15 |
| Urticaria ... | — | — | — | — | 4 |
| Tuberculosis ... | 2293 | 707 | — | — | 1649 |

UNWHOLESOME FOOD CONDEMNED

Set out in the next Table (No. 11) are details of food found during 1956 to be unfit for human consumption. All the foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered to the Public Health Inspectors at the time of inspection, surrender notes were obtained in all cases and 627 condemnation certificates issued.

TABLE 11

FOOD CONDEMNED

| Type of Food | Tons | Cwts. | Qrs. | Lbs. | Ozs. |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Meat and Offal | 3 | 19 | 1 | 6 | 0 |
| Meat, canned | | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1¾ |
| Fruit, canned | | 5 | 0 | 17 | 10 |
| Tomatoes, canned | | 3 | 2 | 18 | 7½ |
| Vegetables, canned | | 1 | 3 | 26 | 2 |
| Milk, canned | | 1 | 0 | 1 | 15 |
| Soup, canned | | | 2 | 16 | 14¼ |
| Cheese | | | 2 | 14 | 5 |
| Medicinal Purpose Foods | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 15 |
| Puddings, canned | | 1 | 1 | 13 | 0½ |
| Macaroni | | | 1 | 15 | 0 |
| Bacon and Sausage | | | 3 | 9 | 0 |
| Dessicated Coconut | | 1 | 0 | 18 | 0 |
| Sauces | | | 1 | 8 | 7¾ |
| Sugar | | | 1 | 12 | 0 |
| Jam, canned | | | 1 | 11 | 14½ |
| Miscellaneous | | | 3 | 26 | 2 |
| Total | 5 | 4 | 3 | 20 | 15¼ |

Disposal of Condemned Food.

Diseased or unwholesome meat is either destroyed by fire or suitably stained and removed for later conversion into fertilisers, etc. Disposal of refuse in this district is by means of controlled tipping, and other unwholesome food is taken to tips where it is safely disposed of under the supervision of the department.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933 - 1954

Only one new application to slaughter or stun animals in a slaughterhouse or Knacker's Yard was received during the year and 75 renewals of existing licences were granted. Slaughtermen continue to be informed of the necessity of obtaining a certificate required under the Firearms Act, 1937. A Captive Bolt Pistol is always available in the department for use by licenced slaughtermen in cases of emergency.

Throughout the year the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations made under Section 2 of the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954 were observed.

Knacker's Yard.

The one Knacker's Yard situated at Bridgtown, Cannock, continued to operate in the first six months of the year and no contravention or nuisance was noted during inspections made. Large quantities of condemned meat were received at these premises for conversion into fertilisers. Mechanical sprays (installed at the suggestion of this department) proved successful in neutralising the smells which originated. In June, 1956, the occupiers relinquished their licence.

PREMISES & OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS OR REGULATIONS

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Dairies and Milk Distributors | - | - | - | - | 75 |
| Purveyors of milk from other districts selling milk | | | | | |
| in this area | - | - | - | - | 9 |
| Bakehouses | - | - | - | - | 13 |
| Slaughterhouses | - | - | - | - | 13 |
| Butchers shops | - | - | - | - | 39 |
| Meat Stalls | - | - | - | - | 5 |
| Tents, Vans and Sheds | - | - | - | - | 49 |
| Mortuaries | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| Factories | - | - | - | - | 128 |
| Pet Shops | - | - | - | - | 8 |
| Rag Flock Premises | - | - | - | - | 4 |

WATER

Drinking Water.

Water supply for drinking purposes is, throughout the Urban District, obtained from the mains of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company and proved satisfactory throughout the year. It was only possible for the department to take seven samples but these and reports received of samples taken by the Company showed "a pure and wholesome supply".

The statutory undertakers cut off the water supply from many inhabited houses following the frosty weather experienced in the early part of the year. Notifications were received in accordance with the Water Act, 1945, and necessary action quickly taken by the department.

Watercourses and Effluents.

A total of 80 samples were taken of effluents and from watercourses. This was mainly due to the alleged pollution of a watercourse outside the district. Investigations were continuing at the end of the year.

Housing Acts

Housing work carried out under the Public Health Acts and Housing Acts is set out on the following pages.

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.
 - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) - - - - - 604
 - (b) Number of inspections made for that purpose - 2337
 - (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 - - - - - 85
 - (b) Number of inspections made for that purpose - 276
 - (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation - - - - - 123
 - (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceeding sub-heading) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation - - - - - 481
2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice.
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers - - - - - 236
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.
 - (a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
 - (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs - - - 0
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:—
 - (a) by Owners - - - - - 0
 - (b) by Local Authority in default of Owners - 0

| | |
|--|-----|
| (b) Proceedings under Public Health Act:— | |
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied - - - - - | 132 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:— | |
| (a) by Owners - - - - - | 107 |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of Owners - | 2 |
| (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:— | |
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made - - - - - | 6 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders - - - - - | 7 |
| (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:— | |
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made - - - - - | 2 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit - - - - - | 0 |
| (e) Proceedings under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:— | |
| Number of dwellings closed under Section 10 (1) - | 4 |

Repairs to Houses.

A large proportion of the complaints received by the department during the year (795) were relating to housing defects prejudicial to health. These matters were dealt with under the Public Health Acts and with the housing situation which prevails such action thus prevents further deterioration and extends the life of the houses.

Repairs to dwelling houses are set out:—

| | |
|--|-----|
| Roofs repaired - - - - - | 75 |
| Chimneys repaired - - - - - | 29 |
| Spouting repaired - - - - - | 58 |
| Houses repointed, roughcast or cemented - - - - - | 18 |
| Damp Proof courses inserted - - - - - | 3 |
| Walls and ceilings repaired - - - - - | 163 |
| New ceilings - - - - - | 19 |
| New quarry and concrete floors - - - - - | 3 |
| Quarry, brick and concrete floors repaired - - - - - | 8 |
| New wood floors - - - - - | 1 |

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|-----|
| Wood floors repaired | - | - | - | 21 |
| New firegrates fitted or firegrates repaired | - | - | - | 34 |
| New windows and windows repaired | - | - | - | 42 |
| New sashcords, catches, fasteners, etc. | - | - | - | 47 |
| New doors fitted and doors repaired | - | - | - | 12 |
| Stair treads renewed | - | - | - | 2 |
| Handrails fixed | - | - | - | 2 |
| Foodstores lighted and ventilated | - | - | - | 2 |
| New sinks and sinks repaired | - | - | - | 20 |
| Hot water systems repaired | - | - | - | 4 |
| Coppers repaired | - | - | - | 13 |
| Burst pipes repaired | - | - | - | 120 |
| Yards paved and paving repaired | - | - | - | 11 |

Ten applications for certificates of disrepair under the Housing Repairs and Rent Act, 1954, as to the condition or state of repair of houses were received. All were granted.

Slum Clearance.

Work of dealing with the dwelling houses likely to be dealt with in the Council's Slum Clearance programme increased during 1956. Houses which were already unfit continued to deteriorate causing physical discomfort and mental anguish to the occupiers. This is a mining area and at many houses deterioration was aggravated by subsidence, a problem not experienced in all districts but which, in my opinion, should be one of national concern. Progress of this Council's programme follows:—

Unfit Houses

Number demolished:—

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|---|----|
| Individual unfits | - | - | - | 7 |
| Clearance Orders | - | - | - | 20 |
| Redevelopment area | - | - | - | 8 |
| Voluntary | - | - | - | 6 |

Clearance Areas Represented

St. Paul's Ward:

266, 268, 270, 272, 274 and 276, Walsall Road, and 4, 6, 8, and 10 Watling Street, Bridgtown.

St. Aidan's Ward:

502, 504, 506, 508, 510 and 512, Stafford Road, Cannock.

St. Chad's Ward:

147, 149, 151, 153 and 155, Cannock Road, Chads Moor.

St. Mark's Ward:

338, 338a, and 340, Green Heath Road, Hednesford.

St. Peter's Ward:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, King Street, Littleworth.

Clearance or Compulsory Purchase Orders made

St. Paul's Ward:

266, 268, 270, 272, 274 and 276, Walsall Road, and 4, 6, 8, 10, Watling Street, Bridgtown.

St. Luke's Ward:

2, 3, and 4, Bungalows, Spring Street, Cannock. (Compulsory Purchase).

St. Aidan's Ward:

502, 504, 506, 508, 510 and 512, Stafford Road, Cannock.

St. Chad's Ward:

147, 149, 151, 153 and 155, Cannock Road, Chadsmoor. (Compulsory Purchase).

St. Mark's Ward:

338, 338a and 340, Green Heath Road, Hednesford.

St. Peter's Ward:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, King Street, Littleworth.

Houses Represented for Demolition or Closing

St. Paul's Ward:

1, Wolverhampton Road, Wedges Mills. (Demolition).

St. Chad's Ward:

4, 6, 10, 12 and 14, Moss Street, Chadsmoor. (Closing).
2. John Street, Chadsmoor. (Demolition).

St. Mark's Ward:

6a, Anglesey Street, Hednesford. (Closing).
401, Rugeley Road, Hednesford. (Closing).

St. Peter's Ward:

The School House, Cannock Wood Rd, Rawnsley. (Demolition)
176, Littleworth Road, Hednesford. (Demolition).
69, Forge Street, Hednesford. (Closing).
212, Littleworth Road, Hednesford. (Closing).

Demolition Orders Made

St. Luke's Ward:

The Annies, Spring Street, Cannock.

St. Mark's Ward:

848 and 850, Pye Green Road, Hednesford.

St. Peter's Ward:

176, Littleworth Road, Hednesford.
The School House, Cannock Wood Road, Rawnsley.

St. John's Ward:

7, East Cannock Road, Hednesford.

Buildings Closed

St. Chad's Ward:

4, 6, 10 and 14, Moss Street, Chadsmoor.

St. Mark's Ward:

6a, Anglesey Street, Hednesford.

401, Rugeley Road, Hednesford.

Houses Demolished

St. Paul's Ward:

Kingswood Cottage, off Washbrook Lane, Leacroft.

Demolition Order.

St. Luke's Ward:

11, 13 and 15, Walsall Road, Cannock.

Voluntary.

St. Chad's Ward:

42, Moss Street, Chadsmoor.

Clearance Order

St. Aidan's Ward:

73 and 75, Old Fallow Road, Chadsmoor.

Demolition Order.

St. Mark's Ward:

209, Bradbury Lane, Hednesford.

Voluntary

389, Cannock Road, Hednesford.

Voluntary.

2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16, Abbey Street, Hednesford.

Clearance Order.

43, 45, 47, 49, 51 and 53, Blewitt Street, Hednesford.

Clearance Order.

848 and 850, Pye Green Road, Hednesford.

Demolition Order.

St. Peter's Ward:

7, Hill Street, Hednesford.

Voluntary.

11, Uxbridge Street, Hednesford.

Demolition Order.

St John's Ward:

7, East Cannock Road, Hednesford.

Demolition Order.

26, 28, 30 and 32, Piggott Street, Wimblebury.

Redevelopment Area.

40, 42, 44 and 46, Arthur Street, Wimblebury.

Redevelopment Area.

134, 136, 138, 140 and 142, Hednesford Road, Heath Hayes.

Clearance Order.

Houses Erected

| | | | Private enterprise | Local authority |
|-----------------|---|---|--------------------|-----------------|
| Bungalows built | - | - | 31 | 10 |
| Houses built | - | - | 18 | 58 |

Overcrowded Dwellinghouses.

It is still impossible to give the exact picture of the overcrowding position in this Urban Area. Following complaints of overcrowding a survey was made of 776 houses owned by the National Coal Board when one in every fifty-nine was found to be overcrowded on the standard laid down in the Housing Act. In addition, many houses were "morally" overcrowded, again emphasising the need for more houses.

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|----|
| New cases found | - | - | - | 23 |
| Abated during year | - | - | - | 10 |
| Existing at end of year | - | - | - | 25 |

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

The year showed an increase on the number of complaints dealt with by the department — 795 were received as compared with 535 in 1955. Many members of the public appear to be under the impression that a Public Health Inspector has a "magic wand" and by his help all their troubles will soon disappear. If only they would realise that in many cases the authority of the Council has to be obtained before certain actions can be enforced. Some defaulters appreciate and welcome a friendly informal approach and it is by this means that numerous complaints are remedied, but there is always the awkward owner when formal action is required.

It is obvious too, that certain complaints of housing defects are made mainly with the object of trying to obtain a council house. Such complaints were received and after action by this department, the occupiers refused to admit builders to carry out the necessary work, openly admitting that they were not concerned about the defects.

NUISANCES AND OTHER MATTERS DEALT WITH

| | | |
|---|-----------|-----|
| Foul drains, water closets, cesspools, sinks, urinals | - | 101 |
| Accumulations of manure and other offensive matter | - | 3 |
| Defective water closets and drains | - - - | 188 |
| Animals so kept as to be a nuisance | - - - | 3 |
| Dirty yards | - - - - - | 2 |
| Verminous or dirty bedding | - - - - - | 3 |
| Dirty dwelling houses | - - - - - | 2 |
| Dwelling houses needing repair | - - - - - | 604 |
| Dwelling houses overcrowded | - - - - - | 23 |

NUISANCES ABATED AND IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT

| | | |
|------|---|-------------------|
| 1 | Pail closet dispensed with. | |
| 1 | Water closet substituted for 1 pail closet. | |
| 216 | Water closets put in order. | |
| 59 | New water closet pans. | |
| 16 | New water closet seats. | |
| 11 | New water closet flushing cisterns. | |
| 33 | Water closet flushing cisterns repaired. | |
| 17 | Choked water closets opened. | |
| 75 | Choked drains opened. | |
| 41 | Yards of new drains on 8 premises. | |
| 21 | Drains repaired. | |
| 2 | Drain ventilating shafts repaired. | |
| 1040 | New dustbins substituted for worn out dustbins. | |
| | | (Council Scheme). |
| 25 | New dustbins substituted for worn out dustbins. | |
| | | (Owners) |
| 5 | New gullies provided. | |
| 6 | New drain inspection chambers constructed. | |
| 6 | New drain inspection chamber covers provided. | |
| 8 | New sanitary pails provided. | |

NOTICES SERVED

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Informal | - | - | - | - | - | - | 472 |
| Statutory, Public Health Act, 1936, Section 45 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 43 |
| Statutory, Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 101 |

RESULTS OF NOTICES SERVED

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Nuisances abated | - | - | - | - | - | - | 429 |
| Notices outstanding | - | - | - | - | - | - | 38 |

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

Throughout the district the accommodation is mainly on the water carriage system. In certain parts of the area which are rural in character, no sewers exist and water closets are drained to cesspools. Chemical closets and sanitary pails are also provided. The emptying of the cesspools, pails, etc., is carried out by the Council's Cleansing Department.

Dustbins.

All the premises in the Urban Area are now provided with dustbins. The scheme for the provision and maintenance of dustbins, which the Council commenced in 1940, has continued to prove popular and of great value. An annual charge of 4/- recoverable as part of the General Rate is made for each dustbin. 12,006 have so far been supplied including, 1040 in 1956, of which 479 were renewals.

DISINFESTATION

Houses of selected applicants for Council houses were visited prior to re-housing by this Council to ascertain whether disinfestation of their furnishings was necessary. During 1956, 168 visits were made and in 21 instances the work of disinfestation was carried out following the discovery of infestations by woodworm or bugs. The work was done by means of Hydrogen Cyanide Gas and/or Steam Disinfestation by qualified members of the staff of my department.

This particular service continues to be most useful as subsequent to disinfestations being carried out, no re-infestations have been reported. The handling of vermin infested and filthy materials is a most extremely distasteful job.

Minor infestations of bugs, fleas, cockroaches, ants, etc., were dealt with by means of insecticidal liquids of D.D.T. fumigation.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The year saw reduced activities in the investigation of notified cases of infectious disease, and the following cases or suspected cases were investigated by the Public Health Inspectors.

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|-------|
| Scarlet Fever | - | - | - | - | 27 |
| Measles | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| Sonne Dysentery | - | - | - | - | 19 |
| Food Poisoning | - | - | - | - | 4 |
| | | | | | <hr/> |
| | | | | | 53 |
| | | | | | <hr/> |

Sonne Dysentery.

These cases create much work mainly of investigational character. The quickness with which the organism is conveyed from one person to another necessitates that investigations should be quick and thorough. In dealing with these cases, samples of faeces (161 from positive cases and 66 from contacts or suspected cases) were obtained and three persons were removed to hospital.

Food Poisoning.

A member of a family where dysentery already existed was found to be affected with salmonella, but this quickly cleared.

Three members of a family of five suspected as suffering from dysentery were found to be carrying the salmonella organisms and after a somewhat belated period, clearance was obtained.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

RODENT CONTROL

The work of Rodent Control was continued throughout the year by the Rodent Operator under the supervision of the Public Health Inspectors, and with the assistance of the Pupil Inspector. Complaints were received from 187 premises and after investigations, appropriate action taken. Further infestations were discovered and dealt with. The baiting and poisoning of the sewers in this district continued.

1. Surface Disinfestation

Work carried out by the Rodent Operator in connection with Surface Disinfestation is set out in the following tables.

The first table shows the properties inspected as a result of (1) notification; (2) survey; and (3) visits to premises primarily for some other purpose.

| Type of Property | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------------------------|-------|
| Local Authority | Dwelling houses | Agricultural | All other (inc. business premises) | Total |
| 16 | 762 | 14 | 98 | 890 |

The second table indicates the properties found to be infested with rats or mice and subsequently treated. All were classed as minor infestations.

| Type of Property | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------------------------|-------|
| Local Authority | Dwelling houses | Agricultural | All other (inc. business premises) | Total |
| 5 | 167 | 0 | 48 | 220 |

2. Treatment of Sewers

Two treatments were completed in accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Infestation Control Division) as follows:—

1st Treatment — 17th January to 21st January.

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| No. of manholes in foul and connected systems | 870 (approx) |
| No. of manholes baited | 34 |
| No. of manholes showing pre-bait take | 7 |
| Scheme of baiting used | 1st, 3rd and 5th days |
| Bait and Poison used | Bread and Arsenic |

2nd Treatment — 17th July to 30th July.

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| No. of manholes in foul and connected systems | 870 (approx) |
| No. of manholes baited | 130 |
| No. of manholes showing pre-bait take | 21 |
| Scheme of baiting used | 1st, 3rd and 5th days |
| Bait and poison used | Sausage Rusk and Zinc Phosphide |

3. Refuse Tips

Tips in the area were frequently inspected and action taken where infestations were found. At one it is estimated at least fifty rats were killed, twenty bodies being actually found.

4. Rick Survey

The department co-operated with the Research Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in conducting a census of the infestation of ricks by rats and mice. The Branch asked for the observation of two ricks. In the first instance, no rats were observed but a heavy infestation of mice was noted from a rick of oats and in the second instance, nineteen rats were observed and killed, and mice which exceeded fifty in number were present in a wheat rick.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The following tables give details of factories inspected, defects found and remedied.

TABLE 12

INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

| Premises | Number on Register | Number of | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| | | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities. | 10 | 15 | — | — |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. | 118 | 169 | 2 | — |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority, (excluding outworkers' premises). | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 128 | 184 | 2 | — |

TABLE 13

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

| Particulars | Number of cases in which defects found | | | | No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|--|--|----------|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| | Found | Remedied | Referred | | |
| | | | To H.M. Inspector | By H.M. Inspector | |
| Want of Cleanliness ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| Overcrowding | — | — | — | — | — |
| Unreasonable temperature | — | — | — | — | — |
| Inadequate ventilation ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ineffective drainage of floors | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| Sanitary conveniences :— | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 10 | 10 | — | — | — |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | 2 | 2 | — | — | — |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork). | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 14 | 14 | — | — | — |

SHOPS ACT, 1950

Inspections and visits to shops have been carried out regularly in connection with the above Act. Much work has been accomplished in the evenings and week-ends to ascertain if the sections relating to Closing Hours and Sunday Trading were being observed. A total of 378 visits were made when, as shown in the following table, contraventions were found. All were remedied following informal action, no prosecutions being necessary.

In my opinion the traders of this Urban District are, by and large, making a genuine attempt to comply with the Shops Act. Anomalies have been met in the existing law but co-operation and understanding between occupiers of premises and this department has resulted in the avoidance of serious friction.

TABLE 14

| Requirements | Contraven- tions | Informal Notices Served | Statutory Notices Served |
|--|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| PART I. | | | |
| Early Closing Days | 24 | 24 | Nil |
| General Closing Hours ... | 7 | 7 | Nil |
| PART II. | | | |
| Statutory half-holiday and meal times | 24 | 24 | Nil |
| Hours of employment of young persons | 18 | 18 | Nil |
| Arrangements for health and comfort of Shop Workers ... | 11 | 11 | Nil |
| PART IV. | | | |
| Sunday Trading | 16 | 16 | Nil |

HEATING APPLIANCES (FIREGUARDS) ACT, 1952

This Act together with Regulations made in 1953, requires fireguards to be fitted to gas fires, electric fires and oil heaters which are so designed that they are suitable for use in residential premises and are of such a type that, without a guard, there is a likelihood of injury by burning.

Mr. Aston, Assistant Public Health and Shops Inspector, is the Designated Officer under this Act, and reports that during 1956, 42 appliances were inspected and tested in the manner prescribed by the regulations. All proved satisfactory with the exception of three — one electric fire and two gas fires. These were sent to the manufacturers and were the subject of special examination and test. The fires were later returned in a satisfactory condition.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The Council's Caravan site at Pye Green remains fully occupied. Accommodation is provided here for twelve caravans and water supply, sanitary accommodation, and means of drainage are adequately provided. An additional site which the Council are contemplating has not so far materialised and many applications to station caravans on this site have been received.

This district during 1956 was not unduly burdened with cases of vans occupying unlicensed sites. Sporadic cases were quickly dealt with under the Public Health Act.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

During the year eight licences were granted for the keeping of Pet Shops, an increase of one over the previous year. All licences are granted subject to conditions which ensure the objects of the Act being secured.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

This Act is to ensure that materials used in upholstered and similar articles are clean. Premises in which filling materials are used in the manufacture of bedding, toys and baby carriages are required to be registered and premises on which flock is manufactured or stored for certain purposes to be annually licensed. One additional licence was granted during 1956.

MORTUARIES

The two mortuaries controlled by the Council in Cannock and Hednesford are regularly visited to ensure cleanliness. Both premises are old, small and inadequate to deal with post mortem examinations. It is pleasing to report that the Council have in mind the provision of an up-to-date mortuary.

INVESTIGATION OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Work in connection with the recording of atmospheric pollution has continued throughout the year. Two Deposit Gauges, six Lead Peroxide instruments and one combined Smoke Filter and Volumetric Sulphur Dioxide apparatus have again been in use. The Council thereby together with well over 200 authorities continued to co-operate with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in this most important work.

The Analyst's report on the analyses of the contents of the instruments are set out in tabular form on pages 46 and 47. The average deposit in tons per square mile again shows a slight decrease as compared with recent years, but the amount of sulphur dioxide present shows an increase.

Every effort was made to secure the abatement or reduction of smoke, and similar emissions. Many observations of chimneys and spoil-

banks were made and occupiers of industrial premises interviewed pending the coming into force of new "clean air" legislation. Throughout the year close contact was kept with the National Coal Board in order to prevent or minimise smoke being emitted from chimney stacks, locomotive engines and spoilbanks at the local collieries.

Smoke, dust, grit and fumes emanating from the cupolas at a foundry was the cause of complaint from inhabitants of the neighbourhood. After an approach from the department, the occupiers commenced to instal two wet grit arrestors and the necessary work was proceeding at the end of the year. At another factory, complaints were received of the emission of metallic dust. A new extraction plant was installed and the Area Engineer of the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service, after visiting the premises stated that the best possible practicable means of dealing with the dust was being employed, with the exception of installing a wet washing system which, because of its high cost would be completely uneconomical and for all practicable purposes unnecessary. At this point I must pay tribute to this Service which has assisted me on several occasions and for their help and advice always so willingly given.

TABLE 15

DEPOSIT GAUGES — RECORD OF DEPOSITS

| Month | | | | | Deposit in Tons per Square Mile per Month | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|--------------|
| | | | | | Bridgtown | Littleworth |
| January | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11.72 | 16.40 |
| February | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11.21 | 9.53 |
| March | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12.66 | 12.68 |
| April | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18.19 | 23.13 |
| May | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11.46 | 16.33 |
| June | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9.42 | 14.97 |
| July | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11.80 | 17.85 |
| August | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25.45 | out of order |
| September | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15.99 | 16.86 |
| October | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13.55 | 14.14 |
| November | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11.97 | 9.66 |
| December | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15.92 | 20.85 |
| Totals | ... | ... | ... | ... | 169.34 | 172.40 |
| Monthly average, 1956 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14.11 | 15.67 |
| Monthly average, 1955 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12.91 | 18.91 |

Because of a defect in the apparatus at Littleworth during the month of August, a true record of deposits was not obtainable. I have therefore calculated the monthly average over eleven months.

TABLE 16

LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES — RECORD OF SULPHUR POLLUTION

Weight of Sulphur Trioxide collected : in milligrammes per 100 sq. centimetres per day

| Month | Bridg- town | Cannock | Pye Green | Hednes- ford | Wimble- bury | Rumer Hill |
|-----------------|----------------|---------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| January ... | 2.99 | 4.67 | 1.93 | 5.37 | 4.56 | 3.26 |
| February ... | 2.73 | 2.27 | 3.08 | 2.92 | 2.62 | 3.39 |
| March ... | 3.17 | 2.19 | 3.24 | 2.16 | 3.29 | 3.24 |
| April ... | 3.24 | 4.16 | 3.32 | 1.43 | 2.68 | 3.65 |
| May ... | 0.86 | 0.52 | 0.96 | 1.09 | 1.54 | 1.44 |
| June ... | 4.08 | 0.46 | 0.68 | 0.84 | 1.04 | 1.39 |
| July ... | 0.93 | 0.34 | 0.51 | 0.92 | 0.89 | 1.98 |
| August ... | 3.47 | 0.57 | 3.38 | 0.73 | 2.54 | 2.96 |
| September ... | 0.96 | 4.56 | 0.89 | 0.89 | 2.11 | 3.59 |
| October ... | 1.24 | 0.73 | 0.97 | 1.21 | 1.50 | 2.08 |
| November ... | 4.30 | 1.09 | 2.30 | 1.82 | 2.02 | 2.68 |
| December ... | 1.72 | 1.33 | 1.51 | 2.44 | 1.85 | 3.02 |
| Totals ... | 29.69 | 22.89 | 22.77 | 21.82 | 26.64 | 32.68 |
| Monthly Average | | | | | | |
| 1956 | 2.47 | 1.90 | 1.89 | 1.81 | 2.22 | 2.72 |
| 1955 ... | 2.15 | 1.50 | 1.77 | 2.34 | 1.95 | 2.80 |

TABLE 17

SMOKE FILTER AND VOLUMETRIC SULPHUR DIOXIDE APPARATUS

Monthly average concentrations of smoke and sulphur dioxide

| Smoke | Milligrammes per cu. metre | Sulphur Dioxide | Parts per Million |
|----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Average | 0.118 | Average | 0.026 |
| Highest | 0.426 | Highest | 0.083 |
| Lowest | 0.025 | Lowest | 0.006 |

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The work of the Cleansing Department has proceeded satisfactorily during the year.

Though there has been some slight improvement in the manpower available for the various sections of the service, difficulty has still been experienced in maintaining a labour force of the type and number to cope with the increasing demands of the progressive development of the area.

Particulars of the work:—

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The frequency of collection of domestic and trade refuse has generally been maintained at a weekly interval.

Five vehicles, i.e. four 7 cubic yard capacity and one 10 cubic yard capacity, side loading, with sliding dustproof covers, have been continuously employed.

A new diesel-powered 10 cubic yard capacity vehicle was introduced at the end of the year as a replacement vehicle.

Disposal of refuse has been by controlled tipping to the fullest extent that man-power would permit. A fair state of tidyness has been maintained and the use of mechanical aids for levelling and soiling of tips is becoming increasingly necessary in that respect.

The use of insecticides on tips as a deterrent to fly and other insect infestation, has been regularly employed and no major problem of that nature has arisen. All available soil, road sweepings and builders' spoil has been used to good effect in sealing surfaces and embankments.

The following tips have been used during the year:—

Burgoyne Street land ex Dunning's gravel pit. Tipping of refuse from the central and northern parts of the area has proceeded continuously good conditions have prevailed and there remains a tipping life of several years.

Walsall Road, Churchbridge. Refuse was deposited after clearance of water over the major area of the larger clayhole during the first half of the year. This site, which serves the central and southern parts of the area, was temporarily placed in reserve in order that operations could be more speedily carried out to reclaim land at Watling Street for agricultural purposes. There is, however, a life of at least three years remaining at Churchbridge.

Watling Street, Bridgtown. The aforementioned site where tipping of refuse to raise the levels of low lying land to improve it for agricultural use have proved a most useful tip for that part of the area and may well last a further 12 months. Soil for cover is being made available and spread by the owner.

Victoria Street, Hednesford. During the year an area of land was raised by tipping of refuse to form a car park, the surface of which is to be subsequently ashed and tarsprayed to complete it for that purpose.

Rugeley Road, Hednesford. At the completion of the above, tipping operations were commenced on low lying land at the junction with Victoria Street, purchased by the Council for subsequent car park use.

Refuse from the northern and eastern parts of the area has been accomodated there, good levels and coverage have been maintained and the life of this site is approximately a further 12 months.

Prospect Village, Cannock Wood. The use of this land on rental from the National Coal Board to improve the levels may-be for subsequent playing field use, was commenced during the year. Refuse from the immediate adjoining area is being deposited there and the life of this site is likely to be several years.

Future Tipping Sites.

Future policy has again been under review during the year and sites to succeed those now in use whereby a minimum tipping life of five years and in one instance provision for maybe 20 years, for the whole of the area, are under consideration.

Cesspools.

A frequency of emptying, varying from one to three weeks, has obtained in the areas of Cannock Wood and Pye Green, where cesspools predominate.

The 1,000 gallon tanker gave frequent trouble and on that account was disposed of at the end of the year and a new machine is on order.

During intermittent breakdown of the larger machine, the 750 gallon cesspool-gully emptier was used to maintain the service. Cesspool contents are discharged into foul sewers. Some progress has been made during the year in the provision of main drainage in the Cannock Wood area and the advantages in the elimination of a certain number of cess-pools will subsequently be felt, but meanwhile, the best possible frequency of service is being maintained, having regard to all circumstances.

Gully Cleansing.

Though some of this work has been carried out by mechanical means, the major portion has been undertaken by manual scoop emptying along with scavenging. Mechanical emptying will again be reverted to on the acquisition of a cesspool vehicle. Gully contents are discharged at tip and when dried out form useful cover material to house refuse.

Street Scavenging.

Manual sweeping has been employed in this work on a rota system by a combination of "beat" method with street orderly trucks and "lengthsmen" work using two gangs of men and two 25 cwt. capacity motor trucks with sliding dustproof covers. A fair standard of tidyness has been maintained generally throughout the area.

Shopping and town centres received daily treatment and market refuse is cleared immediately following the termination of market trading.

The provision of litter bins has been continued but it is regretted that they are not used as effectively to reduce littering of streets as they should be whereby the work of street scavnging is considerably increased.

Public Sanitary Conveniences.

At the female conveniences situate at Cannock and Hednesford, lady attendant cleaners are employed daily and the other conveniences throughout the area are visited daily for cleansing by a male employee of the department.

The best attention is given to ensure a good standard of cleanliness, but despite the effort, misuse by irresponsible persons renders the work more difficult, particularly where there are no attendants.

The making good of damage to water pipes, locks and fittings and defacing of walls and doors, necessitating frequent repair, increases considerably the maintenance costs of this service.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion I once again express sincere thanks to my Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, to all Members of the Council and to Chief Officers (and their Staffs) for the help given during the past year.

To members of my staff (technicians, clerical and workmen) I say "thank you for the conscientious and excellent work you have done" and finally to Dr. Webster, the Medical Officer of Health, I record my sincere appreciation for his continued support and consideration in dealing with our many problems.

I am,

Yours obediently,

J. BALL.

Chief Public Health Inspector,

